

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A master processing apparatus for performing a master processing operation on a target substrate, the apparatus comprising:

a frame;

a pouch holder mounted to the frame;

a supply including a plurality of pouches arranged in the pouch holder, each pouch including a pair of sheets joined at leading ends thereof and adhesive provided on an inner surface of at least one of the sheets;

the pouch holder enabling the pouches of the supply to be successively exposed as a leading pouch in an operative position wherein one of the sheets of the leading pouch can be unfolded away from the other sheet to open the leading pouch into an open position for receipt of the target substrate; and

a processor operable to perform a processing operation wherein adhesive bonding is affected between the sheets of the leading pouch and the target substrate received therein as they are moved through the processor in a feeding direction.

2. A master processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the pouch holder enables the supply to be advanced in a feeding manner to move successive leading pouches into the operative position as each previous leading pouch is fed into the processor.

3. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the pouches are laminating pouches with the sheets being laminating sheets.

4. A master processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the pouches are arranged in a stack in the pouch holder.

5. An apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising a feeder for advancing the stack pouches in the feeding manner.

6. An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the feeder is a resilient structure positioned to bias the stack of pouches for advancing the stack.

7. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the resilient structure includes at least one spring.
8. An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the pouch holder is a cartridge removably mounted to the frame and containing the stack of pouches, the cartridge being removable to enable replacement thereof.
9. An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the cartridge comprises a feeder for advancing the stack of pouches in the feeding manner.
10. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the feeder is a resilient structure positioned to bias the stack of pouches for advancing the stack.
11. An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the resilient structure includes at least one spring.
12. An apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising an unfolding mechanism including at least one movable portion engageable with the one of the sheets of the leading pouch and movable to unfold the one of the sheets of the leading pouch away from the other sheet to open the leading pouch for receipt of the target substrate.
13. An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the unfolding mechanism includes an actuator for operating the unfolding mechanism to move the at least one movable portion.
14. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the actuator is a lever.
15. An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the frame includes an input tray surface positioned to support the one sheet of the leading pouch when unfolded into the open position of the leading pouch.
16. An apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising an unfolding mechanism including at least one movable portion engageable with the one of the sheets of the leading pouch and movable to unfold the one of the sheets of the leading pouch away from the other sheet to open the leading pouch for receipt of the target substrate.

17. An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the unfolding mechanism includes an actuator for operating the unfolding mechanism to move the at least one movable portion.
18. An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the actuator is a lever.
19. An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the frame includes an input tray surface positioned to support the one sheet of the leading pouch when unfolded into the open position of the leading pouch.
20. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an unfolding mechanism including at least one movable portion engageable with the one of the sheets of the leading pouch and movable to unfold the one of the sheets of the leading pouch away from the other sheet to open the leading pouch for receipt of the target substrate.
21. An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the unfolding mechanism includes an actuator for operating the unfolding mechanism to move the at least one movable portion.
22. An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the actuator is a lever.
23. A method for performing a master processing operation on a target substrate using a master processing apparatus, the method comprising:
 - providing a supply including a plurality of pouches on a frame of the apparatus with a leading one of the pouches exposed in an operative position, each pouch including a pair of sheets joined at leading ends thereof and adhesive provided on an inner surface of at least one of the sheets;
 - unfolding one of the sheets of the leading pouch in the operative position away from the other sheet to open the leading pouch into an open position for receipt of the target substrate;
 - positioning the target substrate on the other sheet; and
 - advancing the leading pouch and the target substrate received therein through a processor to perform a processing operation wherein adhesive bonding is affected between the sheets of the leading pouch and the target substrate.

24. A method according to claim 23, wherein the supply is arranged in a pouch holder that enables the pouches of the supply to be successively exposed as a leading pouch in an operative position.
25. A method according to claim 24, further comprising advancing the supply in a feeding manner to move a successive leading pouch into an operative position.
26. A method according to claim 25, wherein the supply of pouches is arranged in a stack in the pouch holder.
27. A method according to claim 26, wherein a feeder advances the stack of pouches in the feeding manner.
28. A method according to claim 27, wherein the feeder is a resilient structure biasing the stack of pouches for advancing the stack.
29. A method according to claim 28, wherein the resilient structure is at least one spring.
30. A method according to claim 29, wherein an unfolding mechanism includes one movable portion that engages with the one of the sheets of the leading pouch and moves to unfold the one of the sheets of the leading pouch away from the other sheet to open the leading pouch for receipt of the target substrate.
31. A method according to claim 30, further comprising using an actuator to operate the unfolding mechanism to move the at least one movable portion.
32. A method according to claim 31, wherein the actuator is a lever.
33. A supply for a master processing apparatus operable to affect adhesive bonding between sheets of a pouch to a target substrate, the apparatus comprising: (a) a frame and (b) a processor operable to perform a processing operation wherein adhesive bonding is affected between the sheets of a pouch and a target substrate received therein as they are moved through the processor in a feeding direction, the supply comprising:

a removable pouch holder constructed to be removably mounted to the frame of the apparatus;

a plurality of pouches arranged in the pouch holder, each pouch including a pair of sheets joined at leading ends thereof and adhesive provided on an inner surface of at least one of the sheets;

the pouch holder when removably mounted to the frame of the apparatus enabling the pouches to be successively exposed as a leading pouch in an operative position wherein one of the sheets of the leading pouch can be unfolded away from the other sheet to open the leading pouch into an open position for receipt of the target substrate, and thereafter the leading pouch with the target substrate can be fed into the processor for performance of the processing operation.

34. A supply according to claim 33, wherein the pouch holder enables the supply to be advanced in a feeding manner to move successive leading pouches into the operative position as each previous leading pouch is fed into the processor.

35. A supply according to claim 34, wherein the pouches are laminating pouches with the sheets being laminating sheets.

36. A supply according to claim 34, wherein the pouches are arranged in a stack in the pouch holder.

37. A supply according to claim 36, wherein the pouch holder further comprises a feeder for advancing the stack of pouches in the feeding manner.

38. A supply according to claim 37, wherein the feeder is a resilient structure positioned to bias the stack of pouches for advancing the stack.

39. A supply according to claim 38, wherein the resilient structure includes at least one spring.

40. A supply according to claim 36, wherein the pouch holder is a cartridge.

41. A supply according to claim 40, wherein the cartridge comprises a feeder for advancing the stack of pouches in the feeding manner.
42. A supply according to claim 41, wherein the feeder is a resilient structure positioned to bias the stack of pouches for advancing the stack.
43. A supply according to claim 42, wherein the resilient structure includes at least one spring.